



High-level Dialogue on  
**International MIGRATION**  
and **DEVELOPMENT**



*Making Migration Work*

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## **High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development**

**Round table 4:  
International and regional labour mobility  
and its impact on development**

**Friday, 4 October 2013, 17.30 – 18.00**

**Summary by the Co-Chair  
H.E. Mr. Shahidul Haque,  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh**

Mr. President,  
Deputy Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to summarise the debate that took place in round table 4 on the theme “International and regional labour mobility and its impact on development”. In our discussion, we identified five main points which I would like to share with you.

First, we agreed that migration needs to be safe, orderly and regular in order to reap its full development potential. Measures to achieve this include, *inter alia*, increasing channels for regular labour mobility, addressing mismatches between labour market supply and demand, better informing migrants and intermediaries about the migration process, and combating human trafficking. Other concrete measures to facilitate regular and safe labour mobility identified during our discussion included: providing an option for re-entry through multi-entry visa and access to dual citizenship, ensuring the portability of pensions and social security benefits, and enforcing labour and immigration laws.

Second, our discussion noted that a rights-based approach to labour migration is integral to maximising the development impact of labour mobility. Enhancing the protection of the rights of migrant workers, particularly vulnerable groups such as lower-skilled migrant workers, workers in temporary migration programmes, migrants employed as domestic workers, migrant women and young migrants, was identified as an important priority. Several participants also called for more concerted efforts to ensure equality of treatment with respect to wages and working conditions and other living conditions.

Third, we agreed on the need to reduce the costs of migration across the chain. Much of the development impact of labour migration is eroded by excessive costs and fees. Ensuring that the upfront costs associated with recruitment are paid by employers, eliminating unscrupulous intermediaries, increasing market competition and instituting a ratings system for recruitment agencies are just some of the examples of concrete measures that can be put forward to increase the development impacts of migration. A number of participants also underscored the need to reduce the human and social costs of

migration. More effective matching of jobs with skills to avoid “brain waste” and facilitating the recognition of foreign qualifications and diplomas were identified as concrete measure that could yield positive outcomes. Reducing the costs of migration, including the transfer costs of remittances, was also identified as a possible target for the post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda.

Fourth, there was a consensus on the need for better cooperation and policy coherence, at all levels, including with employers’ and workers’ organizations. Cooperation at the bilateral, regional and multilateral level was viewed as essential for developing sound labour mobility programmes. In addition, a number of participants called for greater coherence among the various agencies and departments working on migration at the national level, including immigration and labour departments and the departments responsible for development, education, and social services.

Fifth, we agreed on the need to strengthen the evidence base. Several participants noted that available data on the impact of labour migration failed to capture the increasing evolution, complexity and interdependence of labour markets at the bilateral, regional and global levels. Improving data and research on labour mobility, including through inclusion of questions relating to migration in national censuses, household and labour force surveys was seen as an important step. A number of participants also called for collecting more detailed information on the economic and social impact of migration on countries of origin and destination, as well as on migrant workers and members of their families.

Finally, there is a need for greater cooperation, collaboration and partnership, both at national, regional and international level.

Thank you.